

COME TO JESUS IN FAITH.

IN the New Testament we read very much about faith. We are said to be "justified by faith," and "saved by faith," and are told to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be saved. Scriptural faith is loving confidence and reliance. If I am hungry, and a kind friend offers me something, and says it is bread,—but it is dark, and I cannot see; yet, if I begin at once to eat it, this is faith. I trust in his word. If I am sick, and medicine is given me, which I am told will do me good, and I drink it,—this is faith. I believe or have confidence in the doctor's skill. Jesus came into the world to die for sinners. He says, "Believe in me. I have purchased a full pardon for you, and you may go free. It cost my own blood to obtain it, but you are freely welcome to it. If you will obey my words, and trust in my protection, I will engage to save you from death and hell: I am quite able to do this. Here is bread to eat, which will make you live forever if you eat it: here is a medicine which will so cure your soul's sickness that you shall never die. Come unto me,—believe in me, and you shall be saved." Faith is just, affectionately trusting to what Jesus says. Faith is simply coming to Jesus. He has died for thee. Believe it with the heart, and take the benefit of his dying. He has opened the prison door for thee. Believe it, and make thine escape. He is willing to bear thy burden for thee. Believe it, and cast thy sins upon him. He has paid all thy debts. Rejoice! He brings salvation to thee, and says, "It shall be thine, if thou art willing." Stretch forth thy hand, and take it with a grateful heart. Like the prodigal in the parable, thou hast wandered far from home; but Jesus has obtained for thee permission to return. Thy Father, for his sake, is willing to welcome thee back. Believe it, and say, "I will arise, and go to my father." You desire to be trusted by your husband, or wife, or children; you would feel hurt by their doubting your word. So Jesus wishes to be believed when he says, "Poor sinner! I am able and willing to save thee. Come unto me." Do not grieve *him* by distrusting his word. If you do not come, because you think you are too great a sinner, you say, in effect, that he is *not* able to save you, though he tells us "he is able to save to the uttermost ALL who come." You make him a liar. Believe that he really will do what he promises. Go to him at once. Say to him, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Thou art able to save to the uttermost,—save *me*."

See John iii, 14-18; Acts xvi, 30, 31; Rom. v, 1; Heb. vii.
